

Delaware District Office

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SBA Announces Small Business Week Award Winners

WILMINGTON, DE – The U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Delaware District Office will honor Delaware's outstanding small business owners and champions at the **Delaware Small Business Week Awards Dinner on Monday, May 19, 2008, at the Deerfield Golf & Tennis Club in Newark.**

The awards dinner, "**There is No Business Like Small Business,**" will begin with a cocktail reception at 5:00 p.m., followed by the dinner and awards program at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$55 per person. It is co-sponsored by the Chesapeake Business Finance Corporation, Delaware Community Development Corporation, DelVal Business Finance Corporation, and the Mid-Atlantic Business Finance Company.

Marian Young and Mark Lannan, co-owners of BrightFields, Inc., of Wilmington, will be honored as the SBA's 2008 Delaware Small Business Persons of the Year. The award is based on the company's staying power, growth in employment and sales, financial performance, innovative services, response to adversity and contributions to the community.

"We are honored and delighted to be recognized by the SBA," said Mark Lannan, principal and co-owner of BrightFields. "The hard work and dedication of our employees, the encouragement of our friends and advisors, and the continuing support of our clients make BrightFields successful."

BrightFields is a full-service environmental consulting and remediation services firm which employs 32 scientists, engineers and support staff. Formed in 2003 after purchasing the assets of WIK Associates from Young and Lannan's former employer, the company provides a wide range of environmental services, including assessments, investigations and remediation. BrightFields is best known for its work in the environmental restoration of old industrial properties along Wilmington's waterfront. In just five years, the company has expanded from 14 to 32 employees and increased its annual revenue eight-fold.

BrightFields demonstrated its personal commitment to urban renewal by constructing its new office building on a brownfield property, a former city landfill on Wilmington's 7th street Peninsula. It recently opened a second office in Milford to better serve its Delmarva Peninsula customers.

"The Wilmington business community and City, State and non-profit partners are focused on revitalizing Wilmington into a world class small city," said Marian Young, president and co-owner. "It's a high energy team, and the results are being noticed throughout the Mid-Atlantic region. We believe Delaware is a strategic location for BrightField's continued growth."

In addition to their recognition at the state level, three of Delaware's honorees also won in their respective categories at the regional level. **John Ratliff, president of Appletree Answering Service and Delaware's Entrepreneurial Success of the Year; John Orona, president and CEO of**

Shortcutz Lawn & Landscape Associates and Delaware's Young Entrepreneur of the Year; and Anabel Panayotti, president, and Gwen North, vice president, of Port to Port International Corporation and Delaware's Exporters of the year, were selected among state winners from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, West Virginia, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. They are among 10 finalists for the national award in their respective categories. Delaware was the only SBA office in the Mid-Atlantic region to have three businesses honored at the regional level.

Each year SBA's 68 district offices across the country recognize their outstanding state small business owners and champions at local Small Business Week events. The winners then compete with other state winners in their respective SBA regions to determine the 10 regional award winners who then compete for the national award in their respective categories. The 50 state small business persons of the year compete for the title of National Small Business Person of the Year at SBA's National Small Business Week activities in Washington on April 21-23.

For details about the SBA's 2008 Delaware Small Business Awards Dinner on May 19, please contact the SBA's Delaware District Office at (302) 573-6294.

The 2008 Delaware Small Business Week award winners are:

2008 Small Business Week Award Honorees SBA Delaware District Office

Small Business Awards:

Small Business Persons of the Year

Marian Young, President & co-owner
Mark Lannan, Principal & co-owner
BrightFields, Inc.
Wilmington, Delaware

Entrepreneurial Success of the Year*

John Ratliff, President & CEO
Appletree Answering Service
Wilmington, Delaware

* Also selected as the SBA's Regional Entrepreneurial Success of the Year among state winners from PA, MD, WV, VA, DE & DC

Family-Owned Business of the Year

Mary Lenhoff, Managing Member
Bridgewater Jewelers, LLC
Old New Castle, Delaware

Young Entrepreneur of the Year*

John Orona, President & CEO
Shortcutz Lawn & Landscape Associates
Dover, Delaware

* Also selected as the SBA's Regional Entrepreneurial Success of the Year among state winners from PA, MD, WV, VA, DE & DC

Small Business Exporters of the Year*

Anabel Panayotti, President
Gwendolyn North, Vice President
Port to Port International Corp.
New Castle, Delaware

* Also selected as the SBA's Regional Entrepreneurial Success of the Year among state winners from PA, MD, WV, VA, DE & DC

Small Business Champion Awards:

Women in Business Champion of the Year

Carol Arnott, CFP, CDFA, ChFC
Greenville Financial Group
(President of NAWBO)
Greenville, Delaware

Financial Services Champion of the Year

Rocco Perate, President & CEO
Preferred Capital
Wilmington, Delaware

Minority Small Business Champion of the Year

Carla Withers, Statewide Training Coordinator
Delaware Small Business Development Center
Newark, Delaware

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